Application No.   09/885,320   ATTORNEY'S DOCKET 7146.0116
Amendment dated: Decemember 15, 2004
Office Action dated: November 29, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims dated November 8, 2004 will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended). A method of processing an image comprising a plurality of bit planes, wherein each of said bit planes include a plurality of ordered symbol sequences, said method comprising the step of processing a symbol holding a place in each of said plurality of sequences for said plurality of bit planes such that said image is compressed in a manner reducing the number of bits representing said image.

2 (currently amended). The method of claim 1 wherein said step of processing a symbol holding a place in said plurality of sequences comprises results in the step of reducing a first number of said symbols to a lesser number of symbols.

3 (original). The method of claim 2 wherein said lesser number of symbols includes all information included in said first number of symbols.

4 (original). The method of claim 2 wherein said step of reducing a first number of said symbols to a lesser number of symbols comprises the step of replacing a plurality of a repeating symbol with an indicator of a number of repetitions of said symbol.

5 (original). The method of claim 2 wherein said step of reducing a first number of said symbols to a lesser number of symbols comprises the steps of:

(a) identifying a pattern in an order of said symbols;

(b) assigning a code symbol to pattern; and

(c) replacing said symbols of said pattern with said code symbol.

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6 (original). The method of claim 2 wherein said lesser number of symbols includes less

information than included in said first number of symbols.

7 (currently amended).   A method of processing an image comprising a plurality of bit planes,

wherein each of said bit planes include a plurality of ordered symbol sequences, said

method comprising the steps of:

      (a) processing a symbol holding a place in a first of said bit planes in said

plurality of sequences with a first process such that the number of bits

representing said first bit plane is reduced;

      (b) processing said symbol holding said place in said first of said bit

planes with a second process such that the number of bits

representing said first bit plane is reduced; and

      (c) retaining a result of said processing with one of said first and said

second processes.

8 (original). The method of claim 7 wherein at least one of said first process and said second

process comprises a step of reducing a first number of said symbols to a lesser number of

symbols comprising all information included in said first number of symbols.

9 (original). The method of claim 8 wherein said step of reducing a first number of said

symbols to a lesser number of symbols comprises the step of replacing a plurality of a

repeating symbol with an indicator of a number of repetitions of said symbol.

10 (original). The method of claim 8 wherein said step of reducing a first number of said

symbols to a lesser number of symbols comprises the steps of:

      (a) identifying a pattern in an order of said symbols;

      (b) assigning a code symbol to pattern; and

      (c) replacing said symbols of said pattern with said code symbol.

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11 (original). The method of claim 7 wherein at least one of said first process and said second
    process comprises a step of reducing a first number of said symbols to a lesser number of
    symbols containing less information than said first number of symbols.

12 (original). The method of claim 7 wherein the step of retaining a result of said processing
    with one of said first and said second processes comprises the step of retaining said result of
    said processing comprising a lesser number of symbols.

13 (currently amended). A method of processing an image comprising the steps of:

        (a) decomposing said image to an array of pixels;

        (b) recording a luminosity of a pixel as an ordered symbol sequence;

        (c) partitioning a plurality of said ordered symbol sequences into a
            plurality of bit planes ~~at least one bit plane~~ each of which comprising
            a plurality of said symbols holding a place in said plurality of said
            sequences; and

        (d) processing said symbols of said plurality of said bit planes in such a
            manner that said image is compressed in a manner reducing the
            number of bits representing said image. ~~a bit plane.~~

14 (original). The method of claim 13 wherein said step of processing said symbols of said bit
    plane comprises the step of reducing a first number of said symbols to a lesser number of
    symbols.

15 (original). The method of claim 14 wherein said lesser number of symbols includes all
    information included in said first number of symbols.

16 (original). The method of claim 14 wherein said step of reducing a first number of said
    symbols to a lesser number of symbols comprises the step of replacing a plurality of a
    repeating symbol with an indicator of a number of repetitions of said symbol.

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17 (original). The method of claim 14 wherein said step of reducing a first number of said
    symbols to a lesser number of symbols comprises the steps of:

        (a) identifying a pattern in an order of said symbols;

        (b) assigning a code symbol to said pattern; and

        (c) replacing said symbols of said pattern with said code symbol.

18 (original). The method of claim 14 wherein said lesser number of symbols includes less
    information than included in said first number of symbols.

19 (original). The method of claim 13 wherein the step of partitioning a plurality of said ordered
    symbol sequences into at least one bit plane comprising a plurality of said symbols holding
    a place in said plurality of said sequences comprises the step of including in said bit plane
    symbols holding a plurality of said places in an ordered sequence, said plurality of places
    being less than all of said places included in said sequence.

20 (original). The method of claim 13 wherein the step of processing said symbols of a bit plane
    comprises the steps of:

        (a) processing said symbols with a first process;

        (b) processing said symbols with a second process; and

        (c) retaining a result of said processing with one of said first and said
            second processes.

21 (original). The method of claim 20 wherein at least one of said first process and said second
    process comprises a step of reducing a first number of said symbols to a lesser number of
    symbols comprising all information included in said first number of symbols.

22 (original). The method of claim 20 wherein at least one of said first process and said second
    process comprises a step of reducing a first number of said symbols to a lesser number of
    symbols containing less information than said first number of symbols.

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23 (original). The method of claim 20 wherein the step of retaining a result of said processing

with one of said first and said second processes comprises the step of retaining said result of

said processing comprising a lesser number of symbols.

24(original).   The method of claim 13 wherein the step of recording a luminosity of a pixel as

an ordered symbol sequence comprises the steps of:

      (a)   decomposing a pixel of said array to a color plane pixel having a

            luminosity corresponding an intensity of a component color of said pixel;

            and

      (b)   recording said luminosity of said color plane pixel as an ordered symbol

            sequence.

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